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MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

19 February 1960

Members: Mr. Max Horlick, State
Mr. Charles Paine, State
Mr. Richard Bauer, Army
Lt. Robert Bathurst, Navy
Mr. P. Thomas Moines, Navy
Maj. George Kudravets, Air Force
Maj. Elias Bacha, Air Force

[REDACTED]
Mr. J. J. Bagnall, Chairman, CIA

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Guests: Mr. Ralph Muros, Navy
Mr. Charles A. Brophy, Jr., Air Force

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1. The minutes of the eighteenth meeting were approved with the following amendments:

a. Alternative "b" in paragraph 7 was deleted at Army request, as not constituting an Army recommendation.

b. State Department requested clarification of paragraph 3 relative to receipts of ChiCom publications, which, according to the Department's understanding, had been reduced to half.

The Chairman stated that the paragraph in question accurately reflected the FDD situation during November and December 1959. It did not intend to imply that multiple copies were freely available. As the Committee is concerned with the FDD function of exploiting ChiCom publications as a service of common concern for the intelligence community, information on availability of publications to FDD was considered important. As to January 1960 receipts, FDD is receiving, from various sources, essentially the same ChiCom publications for common service exploitation as it has in the past.

NSA, ARMY, NAVY, State reviews completed

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In this connection Army member reported receipt during January of a larger number of ChiCom publications than had previously been acquired, and Air Force member referred to the receipt of new ChiCom scientific and technical journals via South Africa.

2. The Chairman reported on an IBM presentation of machine translation which he attended. IBM resumed development of mechanical translation in September 1959 under Air Force contract. The machine in development utilizes a photoscopic memory disc with a storage capacity of 500,000 entries and operates, in effect, as a mechanized dictionary without regard to any specific discipline. Translations, at an estimated production of 100,000 words per hour, require post-editing. The Chairman proposed supplying members, unfamiliar with the IBM product, with copies of translations of Pravda done by the machine.

The Chairman also commented on an RCA character-sensing machine, an electronic reader designed to photostan material at the rate of 1,000 characters per second in any of three fonts simultaneously. RCA has indicated a readiness to develop the machine to read Russian print, for a cost-plus-fixed fee contract.

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4. State Department, Navy, and NSA members produced the results of a survey of their respective components' annual translation requirements, requested by the Chairman in order to compile an over-all figure for the use of the Planning Research Corporation. Army and Air Force requested a time extension to permit incorporation of estimates from all their components concerned.

The Chairman stated that, when all estimates have been received, a collation will be prepared without attribution of figures to individual USIB members.

5. Air Force member queried the possible impact of a skyrocketing requirement for translation, once machine translation is fully developed.

The Chairman estimated that machine translation costs will approximate present human translation costs if all phases of the process, such as feed-in and post-editing, are considered. Hence budgets will continue to be a controlling factor.

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Army member stated that an analyst with expert knowledge of a subject will accept low-quality translation more readily than an analyst of limited knowledge.

Acknowledging the varying requirements for quality in translations, and that the expert can resolve crude translations in his mind by reference to context, the use to which a translation is put, the Chairman observed, may demand intelligibility and accuracy of the highest order; for example, an atomic scientist in his laboratory testing out the results of foreign research made available in translation may require utmost accuracy.

6. Eastern Europe Program

State

Department analysts find the broad, comprehensive articles in the Weekly Economic Report on Eastern Europe more useful than those of a specialized, technical character. There are no particular suggestions for modification of the format of the report, beyond a desire for shifts in emphasis in accordance with NIS schedules. The Eastern Europe Press Survey was stated to be one of the most valuable reports received. Its expanded index and bracketed comments are particularly helpful, the comments especially so when they bear reference to pertinent subject matter in previous issues of the report. State analysts would appreciate being apprised immediately of developments which the FDD officers, in reading the press, consider of more than routine interest. In conclusion, the State member reported analysts well pleased with those portions of the FDD report, External Economic Relations of Bloc Countries, dealing with Eastern Europe.

Army

Army member reported a greater-than-expected interest in economic data among the technical services, extending to and requiring coverage of such data as appears in the East European provincial press. Another requirement, strongly supported by military personality researchers in ACSI, was for publication of military personality information on 5x8, light stock, card format, in order to facilitate the processing and filing of this information.

The Chairman asked whether the requirement would apply to Soviet military personalities as well; the Army member agreed that it would.

To the Technical Services' request for expanded, economic exploitation of the provincial press, the Chairman replied that FDD had recently undertaken to provide such coverage. On the recommendation

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for publication of military personality data on cards, NSA concurred while other members preferred to review the proposal with their respective components. The Chairman agreed to explore the feasibility of providing the recommended service.

Air Force

Air Force is satisfied with the program.

NSA

NSA analysts have expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the current program. The Military Information Report is extremely valuable and used daily. However, NSA filing methods do not permit the use of source abbreviations and, as a consequence of the present format of the military reports, NSA personnel are obliged to consult the full list of sources and type out the complete source title on any item selected. If feasible, NSA would prefer to have full source titles accompanying each item in the reports.

It was decided to consider NSA's preference as well as any other expressions of preference for full titles by users of the reports.

The NSA member also requested that data on military personalities be reported even if rank is not designated, and most especially on military personnel, regardless of rank, who are associated with scientific and technical fields.

Assurance was given that this will be done.

The Weekly Economic Report on Eastern Europe was described as very valuable and frequently used. Conversely, the Eastern Europe Press Survey, because of the time lag in its appearance, serves only as background information.

Navy

Coverage provided by the Press Survey and the Weekly Economic Report is considered satisfactory by Navy analysts. The Navy member reported a requirement for information on all Polish or other Satellite scientific personnel engaged in Antarctic operations. He requested further that data on military budgets, of the nature of that appearing in the Weekly Economic Report, be incorporated in the Military Information Report, or appropriately cross-referenced. The need for trans-literation of ship types and naval ranks to facilitate proper identification was also expressed.

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The Chairman observed that the activities of scientists in the Antarctic, regardless of area of origin, are reported in the International Geophysical Cooperation Report, published by OTS without identification with CIA. Transliteration of ship types and vessel names presents no problems, and will be effected, in fact extension to include all military ranks in lieu of translation. Military budget data, whenever identifiable, will be published in context in the Weekly Economic Report, with appropriate reference appearing in the Military Information Report.

CIA

CIA analysts express interest in receiving more information on Albania, Bulgaria, and Rumania, as available in source publications and more timely reporting generally, if possible. There were no recommendations for changes in the program.

The Chairman distributed a Memorandum for the Committee outlining a proposed classified Index to the SIR, which will be issued separately but keyed to the unclassified SIR. This alternative to the recommendation that the SIR be issued in its old format was found to be the only practicable solution, in view of the report's present status.

7. The meeting adjourned at 1530 hours. The next meeting will be held in Room 1121 M Building, 18 March 1960.



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Secretary

Enclosure:
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CEFLA-A-18
29 February 1960

COMMITTEE ON EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

A G E N D A

Conference Room - 1121 M Building
Friday, 18 March 1960 at 1400 hours

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1. Minutes of the nineteenth meeting.
 2. The Far East Program

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